

INTRODUCTION

LCD TVs are getting bigger and growing ever more enticing. Since our last round-up of HD TVs a year ago, prices have almost halved and quality has improved. For less than £500 you can now get a 32-inch screen with a superb picture. We tested the latest batch with analogue and digital TV broadcasts, DVDs and even HD video. Uniquely, *Computer Shopper* also tells you which ones double as a perfect display for a media centre PC.

PC connectivity is one area where great strides have been made. In our last test we were frustrated by the failure of many sets to connect digitally to a PC. Today, most sets connect happily via HDMI; all you need is a cable with an HDMI connector at one end and a DVI connector at the other. We also found more TVs allowed a PC connection at their native resolution of 1,366x768. This is a must if you want a pin-sharp picture, to make the most of HD movies, for instance.

We're confident that one of the 11 HD-ready TVs we've put under the microscope will prove to be ideal for your needs.

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As the prices of LCD TVs plummet, we point our remotes at 11 of the best HD sets around to find out what you get for your money

HIGH AND MIGHTY

Choosing an... HD LCD TV

A TV is the focal point of nearly everyone's living room, and these days it's expected to do a lot more than just show your favourite TV shows. There's a lengthy list of devices you may want to connect to your television, such as a DVD player, a games console or a set-top box. You may also have older devices, such as a VCR, that you'll want to keep connected. If you're going to invest in a pin-sharp LCD TV, then you really should connect a media centre PC, too – then you can add HD video, photography and internet use to your onscreen activities.

With all these potential uses, choosing the right TV can be complex, but our guide will help you find a set that meets all your needs.

HD READY

All the TVs tested here are HD ready. High definition (HD) describes video at much higher resolutions than everyday TV broadcasts or DVDs. This shows more detail, resulting in more realistic images. You'll feel you're right there in the stadium when watching sports, and in the middle of the action when watching movies.

The HD standard allows for three formats: 720p, 1080i and 1080p. The figure specifies the number of horizontal lines that make up the picture, while the 'p'

and 'i' indicate whether the picture is refreshed progressively or interlaced. For example, a 720p picture consists of 720 horizontal lines that are updated one after the other, in progression, each time a frame is refreshed. With a 1080i picture, you get 1,080 horizontal lines, but these are divided into two sets: even numbered lines and odd numbered lines. With each update the TV refreshes only one of these sets of lines, a process that is called interlacing. This is the same process as used by standard-definition TV broadcasts, albeit with fewer lines.

To qualify for the HD-ready badge, a TV needs to have a resolution of at least 1,280x720. All the TVs here have a slightly higher native resolution of 1,366x768. These will properly display 720p images. They'll also accept a scaled-down 1080i or 1080p input.

You can't get HD on Freeview. Both Sky and Virgin Media offer HD channels, broadcasting the 1080i format to subscribers. HD DVD players, Blu-Ray drives, Sony PlayStation 3s and upgraded Xbox 360s can all produce a 1080p signal.

THE RIGHT CONNECTION

You will probably use a SCART cable to connect your DVD player as well as any set-top boxes such as Sky+



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or Virgin Media to your TV. If your source supports it, an RGB SCART connection will give a better-quality picture than the other signals carried by SCART, so we list RGB SCART inputs separately in our table on page 101. Component is an even better connection for a DVD player that can output a progressive scan picture.

Replacing all these inputs is the new HDMI connector. This provides a digital connection for video and audio, and it is the input you'll want to use to connect an HD source or a PC to your TV. For this reason, at least one HDMI input is essential, two is good, and three HDMI inputs is even better.

SIZE MATTERS

While all the sets here have the same resolution, they come in three sizes: 26in, 32in and 37in. A 26in screen is ideal for small rooms such as a bedroom or study, but for a living room you'll probably want something larger. To immerse yourself in HD video completely, a 37in TV is ideal, but these big screens look good only when you're sitting at least two metres away from them. If you have a small living room, a 32in model is a better choice.

GOING DIGITAL

The government plans to switch off analogue broadcasts by 2012. Before that happens, it hopes that we'll all have migrated to digital TV.

How we test LCD TVs

We tested each TV's ability to display TV broadcasts, HD images, progressive scan DVDs and standard definition video. Tests were run over S-video, HDMI, D-sub, component and SCART connections.

We also put each TV through our standard LCD monitor tests. These check for accurate fine detail, natural colour, even illumination, plus good brightness and viewing angles. To see how well the TVs handled fast-moving action, we played 3D games and ran a speeding animation across the screen to test smoothness of motion.

Our outdoor aerial doesn't get the best reception, so it's a demanding test. Some TVs still managed to produce a viewable image, while others failed miserably. Much of the video you'll be watching will still be in a standard-resolution, interlaced format. For this reason, we also try each model with a set of video clips and test patterns designed to evaluate deinterlacing performance, among other video signal-processing tasks.

Finally, we scrutinised the sound quality of every model here and checked the connections available.

Freeview is a free digital service that can be accessed through an ordinary outdoor aerial. It provides clearer, sharper images on the main five channels, as well as extra channels such as FilmFour, CBeebies, BBC3 and 4, E4 and ITV2. All but one TV in this group comes with a built-in Freeview tuner. Of these, seven also have a CI slot. These slots take a card that allows you to subscribe to paid-for channels available through Freeview. Just two providers offer subscription cards, and you get only one extra channel, with up to three channels providing programming on a timeshare basis. A better way to expand your selection is to use a cable or satellite set-top box.

PICTURE QUALITY

No matter how HD-ready a TV might be, it all counts for nothing if the screen isn't up to scratch. Poor contrast; an inability to produce decent blacks, clean whites and realistic colours; and problems with resolving fine details all defeat the purpose of an HD image. Even if you do have an HD source, you won't be watching HD all the time. A good panel will also be able to get standard-definition videos looking their best. You can't tell the quality of a screen from its specifications alone, and it isn't always possible to view a model in store, so check our reviews carefully to see which are up to scratch.

26in LCD TVs

HITACHI L26H01U

★★★

£370 inc VAT

The L26H01U from Hitachi is a rather plain TV with a matt black surround and a silver grille hiding the speakers. It's the cheapest TV here, but you still get all the important features, including two HDMI inputs and Freeview. There's also a CI slot.

Analogue TV reception was quite good, though it failed to pick up Channel Five. Images were sharp and clear on the digital channels.

The panel didn't appear to be evenly illuminated. When displaying a screen of solid colour, the image was brighter in the middle. We weren't impressed with the image quality with our progressive scan DVD source. Straight lines appeared jagged, while colours were rich but garish. Even after adjustment, colours looked a little oversaturated. In our standard-definition test, fast-moving images produced considerable ghosting. Solid areas of colour appeared speckled, and HD clips lacked detail in dark areas.

The L26H01U performed well when connected to a PC using the D-sub input. It displayed a crisp Windows desktop at its native resolution. The manual doesn't suggest using the HDMI input to connect to a PC digitally, but we tried it anyway. The result was quite awful, with text looking torn and ragged and still images appearing to flicker.

The sound quality on this set is good, with a reasonable amount of bass and no distortion at top volume.

Hitachi's L26H01U may be the cheapest TV here but it has poor picture quality when watching videos and HD material.



SUMMARY

- ✓ Inexpensive
- ✗ Disappointing HD performance
- ✗ Poor colour accuracy

26in LCD TV 2 HDMI, 1 D-sub, 1 component, 2 SCART inputs
PART CODE L26H01U
SUPPLIER www.empiredirect.co.uk
DETAILS www.hitachidigitalmedia.com

GOODMANS GTVL26W17HDF

★★★

£400 inc VAT

The GTVL26W17HDF's price is the second lowest in the group. However, it doesn't look cheap. The black surround has a mirror-like surface, which gives the TV a smart and stylish appearance.

Reception on analogue channels was grainier and had more ghosting than most of the other TVs using the same aerial, and it failed to find Channel Five. However, picture quality was excellent when viewing digital channels. It also displayed standard-definition interlaced material well.

The highest resolution when connected to a PC using the D-sub input is 1,024x768 stretched horizontally to fit the 16:9 screen. The Windows desktop looked reasonable at this resolution, but the slight blurriness gave small text a soft look. When playing HD movie clips from our media centre PC at this resolution, finer details were lost entirely. Picture quality improved when connecting a computer through the HDMI input. Here, a higher resolution of 1,280x768 was available (again stretched to 16:9). However, it still failed to pick out small details in dark areas, and we found this to be a problem when watching our progressive scan DVD as well.

No matter which input was used, and even with a lot of adjusting, we couldn't get this TV to produce dark blacks or pure whites. High contrast photos appeared soft and indistinct, and skin tones were a little ruddy.

If you are on a tight budget, this is a more stylish TV than Hitachi's L26H01U. However, we'd recommend that you save up the extra £77 and buy Toshiba's 26WLT66.



SUMMARY

- ✓ Good digital TV picture quality
- ✓ Stylish for a £400 TV
- ✗ Poor computer display

26in LCD TV 2 HDMI, 1 D-sub, 1 component, 2 SCART inputs
PART CODE GTVL26W17HDF
SUPPLIER www.currys.co.uk
DETAILS www.goodmans.co.uk

TOSHIBA Regza 26WLT66

★★★★★

£477 inc VAT

Toshiba's 26in addition to its Regza range looks more like a computer monitor than a TV. It automatically tuned into digital channels, but we had to use the menu for analogue channels.

Analogue channels suffered from more ghosting than the other 26in TVs, and were particularly grainy. Picture quality on the digital channels was far superior, with realistic colours and sharply defined images.

Picture quality from both our HD clips and our progressive scan DVD was excellent. Watching standard interlaced material is also a pleasant experience, with sharp images. The 10W speakers produce just enough bass to provide depth to audio, and there's no distortion at top volume.

The TV only lets itself down when connected to a PC. Using the D-sub input, there were no genuine 16:9 resolutions on offer, just squarer modes, which are displayed with black bands on either side. The highest resolution available via HDMI is 1,280x1,024, which was fine when watching movies and playing games, but text looked soft. Text and still photos looked crisper at 1,024x768 because this at least matches the native resolution on one axis.

If you're stuck for space, this is a reasonably priced 26in HD TV with a good all-round performance. However, for £20 more you can get the bigger 32C3030, which doesn't have any problems when connected to a PC.



SUMMARY

- ✓ Excellent for HD and digital TV
- ✓ Excellent audio
- ✗ Problems connecting to a PC

26in LCD TV 2 HDMI, 1 D-sub, 1 component, 2 SCART inputs
PART CODE 26WLT66
SUPPLIER www.asda-electricals.co.uk
DETAILS www.toshiba.co.uk

JVC LT-26DA8BJ

★★★

£530 inc VAT

The LT-26DA8BJ has a retro look, with a shiny black surround set into a brushed-silver frame with matching silver stand. The automatic program tuner didn't kick in when we started the TV.

Tuning the channels manually involved some guesswork as it doesn't work quite the way it is described in the manual. The process wasn't helped by the onscreen menu, which is functional, but clunky and illogical in use.

We were impressed with the quality of both the analogue and digital broadcasts. It produced the best TV pictures of the 26in models, coping admirably with the poor reception from our outdoor aerial.

Connecting to a PC was less impressive. There are no D-sub or DVI inputs, and the manual is no help. The only possible connection is via HDMI, and using this it's only possible to get the LT-26DA8BJ to display a resolution of 1,280x720. This produced a fuzzy-looking Windows desktop.

This model did quite well displaying HD material. Colours are realistic and vibrant, and it did well at picking out the smallest details. It displayed standard interlaced material fairly well. Our progressive scan DVD looked acceptable with strong colours, but straight edges appeared jagged. Audio lacks bass and was surprisingly quiet, given the 12W stereo speakers. Most other sets here have 10W speakers.

The LT-26DA8BJ is the most expensive of the 26in models, but its performance is outclassed by the cheaper and larger Toshiba 32C3030.



SUMMARY

- ✓ Excellent TV picture quality
- ✗ Expensive
- ✗ Not suitable for PC connection

26in LCD TV 2 HDMI, 1 component, 2 SCART inputs
PART CODE LT-26DA8BJ
SUPPLIER www.red-onions.co.uk
DETAILS www.jvc.co.uk

SAMSUNG LE32R87BDX

★★★★★

£474 inc VAT

Like most Samsung TVs, the LE32R87BDX has an attractive, glossy, piano-black surround. It will make an appealing focal point in any room. With the increasing availability of HDMI devices we were pleased to find three HDMI connections, one of which is handily located on the side of the TV.

In the last two LCD TV group tests we've done, Samsung has walked away with the top prize, so the LE32R87BDX had a lot to live up to. Stations were tuned in automatically when we switched the set on, and reception was excellent on either digital or analogue.

The LE32R87BDX didn't do too badly when it came to standard interlaced material. However, moving images appeared a little indistinct, an effect that was also apparent in our progressive scan DVD. A little speckled noise appeared to flicker around moving objects.

We were impressed with the depth of blacks in HD images, and whites remained pure. Small details were clearly picked out in even the darkest areas. Colours were rich, but realistic. Connecting to a PC is easy over either analogue or digital connections, and the display was pin-sharp at the native resolution of 1,366x768.

We weren't so impressed with this model's audio quality. The 10W stereo speakers produced a lacklustre sound, with very little bass and some distortion at the highest setting.

This is a great TV to watch HD movies on, but its performance wasn't so great when watching standard definition video. Toshiba's 32C3030 is a better buy.



SUMMARY

- ✓ Superb for HD and TV
- ✓ Excellent computer display
- ✗ Disappointing sound

32in LCD TV 3 HDMI, 1 D-sub, 1 component, 2 SCART inputs
PART CODE LE32R87BDX
SUPPLIER www.lambda-tek.com
DETAILS www.samsung.co.uk

TOSHIBA Regza 32C3030

★★★★★

£492 inc VAT



The matt exterior of Toshiba's Regza 32C3030 is tidy but rather bland compared to the Samsung and Sony models. The set swivels a little on its base, making it easier to access the connections on the rear. These include an optical audio output, two HDMI ports and a CI slot. There's no S-video connector, however. The digital channels tuned in automatically, and the auto-tune feature kicked in as soon as we switched to analogue.

The 32C3030 wasn't able to find Channel Five, but otherwise dealt well with less-than-perfect reception. The picture was the best of the 32in sets for both analogue and digital signals. Along with the 26in Regza model it got the highest score in our video processing tests, making this an excellent TV to watch standard interlaced video on.

Picture quality from HD footage and our progressive scan DVD was perfect. Colours were rich and deep, blacks looked black and detail was visible in even the dark areas of images.

We can't fault this TV for use with a PC. It will display images at its native resolution of 1,360x768 over both digital and analogue connections. Focus is good, if not as crisp as that on Sony's 32D3000.

The 10W speakers provide just enough bass to add atmosphere to games and movies. Some distortion crept in when the volume was turned to its highest setting, though.

This is a reasonably priced TV that puts in a good all-round performance, providing excellent picture quality no matter what device it is connected to.



SUMMARY

- ✓ Superb picture quality
- ✓ Excellent computer display
- ✓ Good audio quality

32in LCD TV 2 HDMI, 1 D-sub, 1 component, 2 SCART inputs
PART CODE 32C3030
SUPPLIER www.oyyy.co.uk
DETAILS www.toshiba.co.uk

GOODMANS GTVL32W17HDF

★★★

£499 inc VAT

The GTVL32W17HDF looks identical to the 26in model from Goodmans, but with a different stand. Our model had one small cosmetic flaw: the silver strip beneath the surround had come away at one end. This was disappointing given the price, but otherwise this TV feels solidly built.

The picture quality is no better than that of the 26in GTVL26W17HDF. It did manage to find channel 5, though, which the 26in TV couldn't do.

The highest resolution available when connected to a PC via D-sub is 1,024x768 stretched to 16:9 proportions. This produces a reasonable Windows desktop, although text appears a little soft and blurry. The highest resolution available when connected using HDMI is 1,280x720. This is adequate for watching any HD movies you might have on your computer. However, if HD is the reason you want to buy a new TV, this isn't the set for you. Details in dark areas of our HD movie clips and progressive scan DVD that other TVs picked out clearly failed to display on this set, no matter how much we adjusted the settings. Fiddling with the controls didn't help with the colours, either, which were consistently oversaturated and unrealistic.

We were also underwhelmed by the thin sound quality of the 10W speakers, which failed to produce decent bass or treble.

The 32in TVs from Samsung and Toshiba performed much better than Goodmans' GTVL32W17HDF, and both cost less.



SUMMARY

- ✓ Good TV picture quality
- ✗ Low resolution for PC use
- ✗ Poor HD video picture quality

32in LCD TV 2 HDMI, 1 D-sub, 1 component, 2 SCART inputs
PART CODE GTVL32W17HDF
SUPPLIER www.marshallward.co.uk
DETAILS www.goodmans.co.uk

SONY Bravia 32D3000

★★★★★

£833 inc VAT

The Bravia 32D3000's understated looks are a world away from Samsung's glossy approach, but just as classy.

Other TVs we've seen from Sony have auto-tuned channels as soon as they were switched on, so it was a surprise that this one didn't. However, starting the auto-tune feature manually is extremely easy, thanks to the beautifully laid-out onscreen menu system.

TV reception was about average for this group. It did particularly well when handling everyday interlaced video, and picture quality was also impressive for HD material and our progressive scan DVD. The screen handles both light and dark areas particularly well, producing deep blacks and pure whites. Colours are deep and rich but not overly bright, with a realistic appearance and natural skin tones. Small details, such as individual hairs on a dog's coat, were clearly picked out.

Connecting to a PC is straightforward using either the D-sub or HDMI inputs. The display is crisp and sharp at its native resolution. This set and the Samsung were the only two here to have three HDMI ports. One is conveniently located on the side.

With picture quality this good, it is a shame the sound quality doesn't match. Audio sounds rather flat, even after adjusting the sound controls, and the 10W stereo speakers just don't have the same oomph as Toshiba's.

This is an excellent TV with a superb image quality, but Toshiba's 32C3030 is nearly as good and costs £341 less.



SUMMARY

- ✓ Superb picture quality
- ✓ Excellent computer display
- ✗ Expensive

32in LCD TV 3 HDMI, 1 D-sub, 1 component, 2 SCART inputs
PART CODE KDL-32D3000
SUPPLIER www.shopmagenta.com
DETAILS www.sony.co.uk

37in LCD TVs



HANNSPREE JT02

★★★★

£453 inc VAT

At just £453 including VAT, the JT02 from Hannspree is exceptionally cheap for a 37in TV. In fact, it costs less than two of the 26in models in this Labs test. The JT02 has a shiny black surround, which would look stylish were it not spoilt by the dark grey grille across the speakers at the bottom.

This is the only TV on test not to have a digital tuner. You will need to add a separate set-top box to watch Freeview channels. Unfortunately, reception on the analogue channels is particularly grainy and indistinct compared to the other models in this test. In addition, the JT02 was the only TV reviewed here to have great difficulty displaying a watchable picture for Channel 4, and it failed to show anything for Channel Five at all.

Whether watching TV or video from a DVD player or a media centre PC, colours were oversaturated and unrealistic. What's more, no amount of fiddling with the settings could improve on this.

The JT02 did produce a display at its native resolution when connected to a PC through both D-sub and HDMI inputs. Over the analogue connection the Windows desktop was a bit blurry to start with, but it sharpened up when we selected the auto adjust feature in the onscreen menu. Neither our HD movie clips nor our test 3D game looked at their best, however. This was due to the oversaturated colours and a reluctance by the JT02 to pick out smaller details, particularly in dark areas of the screen.

The JT02 does have an excellent pair of 10W speakers. These produced a good, full sound with a decent level of bass.

The price of Hannspree's JT02 may make it seem an attractive buy, but if you really need a 37in screen, we would recommend that you wait until you've got the extra £150 to buy LG's 37LC55.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Cheap for a 37in TV
- ✓ Excellent audio quality
- ✗ Poor HD video picture quality

37in LCD TV 2 HDMI, 1 D-sub, 1 component, 2 SCART inputs
PART CODE JT02-37E2-000G
SUPPLIER www.oyyy.co.uk
DETAILS www.hannspree.com



LG 37LC55

★★★★★

£599 inc VAT

BEST BUY LG's 37LC55 is big, black and shiny. It looks fabulous and has the performance to match. Our only complaint is that the TV requires some assembly. The stand needs to be slotted into place and four screws inserted, although an Allen key is supplied for this.

The automatic tuner starts as soon as the TV is switched on. A rather nice touch is that, as well as displaying its progress, it shows the number of channels found for both digital and analogue. TV reception was average, but the analogue tuner didn't manage to find Channel Five. The electronic programme guide (EPG) for the Freeview channels was one of only two in the group to provide eight days' programme listings.

The 37LC55 did better than the other 37in models with standard interlaced video sources, and was about average compared to the group as a whole. It really came into its own when handling HD material and our progressive scan DVD. Colours had depth, and a natural appearance, with a large amount of very small detail picked out. On such a big screen images were sometimes scarily realistic. It also handled fast-moving objects without any smearing or ghosting. This made playing games and watching our action-packed progressive scan DVD all the more enjoyable.

Picture quality when connected to a PC is excellent via a D-sub cable, and superb when using a digital connection. The set displayed easily the best Windows desktop in the group, and focus was pin sharp, resulting in clearly displayed text that was legible at the smallest sizes. Colours were deep and natural.

Sound quality from the 10W speakers is good, although they're not as impressive as those on Hannspree's JT02.

This is a great TV with excellent picture quality at a reasonable price.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Superb HD video picture quality
- ✓ Excellent computer display
- ✓ Good audio

37in LCD TV 2 HDMI, 1 D-sub, 1 component, 2 SCART inputs
PART CODE 37LC55
SUPPLIER www.hughesdirect.co.uk
DETAILS www.lge.com



SHARP LC37RD2E

★★★★

£889 inc VAT

Sharp's LC37RD2E requires a little more assembly than any other TV here. The stand comes in two parts, and it needs eight screws to put it all together. Analogue channels tuned in automatically as soon as we turned the TV on, but we had to go into the onscreen menu to set up the digital channels. The onscreen menu looks good but isn't intuitive to use.

Results from our less-than-perfect outdoor aerial were quite good on the analogue channels. However, images on digital channels weren't quite as sharp as those managed by LG's 37LC55. The LC37RD2E handled standard interlaced video footage particularly poorly, with straight edges such as the side of a table appearing considerably jagged and lots of noise in solid areas of colour.

The TV does have some side-to-side swivel, making it easy to reach the connections on the back. These are actually recessed side on, at the rear of the TV. A cover slots over the top to prevent the cables from sticking out of the side of the TV. There are all the connectivity options you need here, but component input is available only through the supplied VGA-to-component adaptor. This didn't affect the image quality when watching our progressive scan DVD. For this and for HD material, colours were deep and rich, with a good range of tones. Blacks were nice and dark, and whites were clean and pure. A good amount of detail was noticeable in even the darkest scenes.

It didn't do such a good job when connected to a PC. You can display a native resolution desktop over both digital and analogue connections, but neither produced a perfectly sharp picture. The speakers weren't quite as loud as those on the LG TV, and the audio quality wasn't as pleasant.

This is the most expensive TV here. While it did well at handling HD material, at this price it should do better when attached to a PC.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Excellent for HD
- ✓ Good for watching DVDs
- ✗ Slightly soft picture when used as PC display

37in LCD TV 2 HDMI, 1 D-sub, 1 component (via VGA), 2 SCART inputs
PART CODE LC37RD2E
SUPPLIER www.247av.com
DETAILS www.sharp.co.uk

26in LCD TVs

MANUFACTURER	HITACHI	GOODMANS	TOSHIBA	JVC
Model	L26H01U	GTVL26W17HDF	Regza 26WLT66	LT-26DA8BJ
Rating	★★	★★★	★★★★	★★
TV rating	★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★★
Video rating	★★	★★	★★★★★	★★★
PC rating	★★★	★★	★★	★
Sound rating	★★★★	★★	★★★★★	★
Connectivity rating	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★
PHYSICAL				
Viewable size	26in	26in	26in	26in
Native resolution	1,366x768	1,366x768	1,366x768	1,366x768
Aspect ratio	16:9	16:9	16:9	16:9
HD Ready	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Contrast ratio	800:1	800:1	800:1	1,200:1
Brightness	500cd/m²	500cd/m²	500cd/m²	500cd/m²
Speakers	2x 8W	2x 10W	2x 10W	2x 12W
Bezel (top/side/bottom)	40mm/37mm/104mm	50mm/48mm/130mm	35mm/40mm/105mm	35mm/40mm/80mm
Screen depth	135mm	100mm	120mm	110mm
Screen elevation	150mm	180mm	160mm	145mm
Stand size (WxD)	388x235mm	520x270mm	286x275mm	450x225mm
CONNECTIONS				
DVI	0	0	0	0
D-sub	1	1	1	0
HDMI	2	2	2	2
Component	1	1	1	1
SCART (of which RGB)	2 (2)	2 (1)	2 (1)	2 (2)
S-video	1	1	0	0
Composite	1	2	1	0
Audio outputs	Optical S/PDIF out, 2x stereo phono	Optical S/PDIF out	2x stereo phono	Optical S/PDIF out, 2x stereo phono
Other	Headphone output	N/A	Headphone output, CI slot	Headphone output, CI slot
TUNER				
Type	Digital/analogue	Digital/analogue	Digital/analogue	Digital/analogue
EPG	7 day	7 day	7 day	7 day
ENVIRONMENTAL				
Normal consumption	117W	150W	159W	116W
Suspend consumption	1W	3W	1W	2W
BUYING INFORMATION				
Warranty	1 year	1 year	1 year	1 year
Price inc VAT	£370	£400	£477	£530
Supplier	www.empiredirect.co.uk	www.currys.co.uk	www.asda-electricals.co.uk	www.red-onions.co.uk
Details	www.hitachidigitalmedia.com	www.goodmans.co.uk	www.toshiba.co.uk	www.jvc.co.uk
Part code	L26H01U	GTVL26W17HDF	26WLT66	LT-26DA8BJ

Labs verdict HD LCD TVs

It's only been a year since we last looked at HD TVs, but prices have dropped dramatically in that time. One thing that hasn't changed, though, is the huge variance in picture quality. Our tests show that a high price doesn't guarantee good performance, and neither does a low price exclude it. The HD LCD TVs in this group needed to prove that they could perform well as TVs, when displaying movies, playing games and also when connected to a PC. Nearly all the models in this group did well at one of these tasks. But only two models managed to produce a good picture quality no matter what device they were connected to.

The 32in Regza 32C3030 from Toshiba and the 37in 37LC55 from LG both achieved excellent all-round picture quality. These TVs stood head and shoulders above the competition. The Toshiba 32C3030 costs less than the most expensive 26in model and performs flawlessly. It wins our Budget Buy award. The superb LG 37LC55 wins our Best Buy award. At just £599 it's far from the most expensive 37in set, and easily the best. **CB**

32in LCD TVs

BUDGET BUY
TOSHIBA
Regza 32C3030
★★★★★



37in LCD TVs

BEST BUY
LG
37LC55
★★★★★



32in LCD TVs

BUDGET BUY

37in LCD TVs

BEST BUY

MANUFACTURER	SAMSUNG	TOSHIBA	GOODMANS	SONY	HANNSPREE	LG	SHARP
Model	LE32R87BDX	Regza 32C3030	GTVL32W17HDF	Bravia 32D3000	JT02	37LC55	LC37RD2E
Rating	★★★★	★★★★★	★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★
TV rating	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★	★★★★★	★★★
Video rating	★★★	★★★★★	★★	★★★★★	★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
PC rating	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★
Sound rating	★★	★★★★★	★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★
Connectivity rating	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★
PHYSICAL							
Viewable size	32in	32in	32in	32in	37in	37in	37in
Native resolution	1,366x768	1,366x768	1,366x768	1,366x768	1,366x768	1,366x768	1,366x768
Aspect ratio	16:9	16:9	16:9	16:9	16:9	16:9	16:9
HD Ready	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Contrast ratio	Not disclosed	Not disclosed	800:1	1,600:1	1,200:1	800:1	2,000:1
Brightness	450cd/m²	500cd/m²	500cd/m²	450cd/m²	500cd/m²	450cd/m²	500cd/m²
Speakers	2x 10W	2x 10W	2x 10W	2x 10W	2x 10W	2x 10W	2x 10W
Bezel (top/side/bottom)	50mm/50mm/70mm	42mm/45mm/95mm	47mm/50mm/140mm	42mm/42mm/85mm	50mm/62mm/135mm	50mm/48mm/110mm	42mm/42mm/57mm
Screen depth	70mm	130mm	100mm	98mm	140mm	90mm	120mm
Screen elevation	130mm	143mm	195mm	133mm	200mm	165mm	140mm
Stand size (WxD)	500x250mm	507x310mm	380x250mm	420x210mm	600x300	622x250mm	540x310mm
CONNECTIONS							
DVI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
D-sub	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
HDMI	3	2	2	3	2	2	2
Component	1	1	1	1	1	1	1 (via VGA)
SCART (of which RGB)	2 (1)	2 (1)	2 (1)	2 (2)	2 (1)	2 (1)	2 (2)
S-video	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Composite	1	1	2	1	1	1	2
Audio outputs	Optical S/PDIF out, 1x stereo phono	Optical S/PDIF out, 1x stereo phono	Optical S/PDIF out	Optical S/PDIF out, 1x stereo phono	1x stereo phono	Optical S/PDIF out	1x stereo phono
Other	Headphone output, CI slot	Headphone output, CI slot	N/A	Headphone output, CI slot	N/A	CI slot	Headphone output, CI slot
TUNER							
Type	Digital/analogue	Digital/analogue	Digital/analogue	Digital/analogue	Analogue	Digital/analogue	Digital/analogue
EPG	7 day	7 day	7 day	7 day	N/A	8 day	8 day
ENVIRONMENTAL							
Normal consumption	190W	154W	200W	149W	200W	180W	165W
Suspend consumption	1W	1W	2W	0.3W	5W	1W	1W
BUYING INFORMATION							
Warranty	1 year	1 year	1 year	1 year	2 years	1 year	1 year
Price inc VAT	£474	£492	£499	£833	£453	£599	£889
Supplier	www.lambda-tek.com	www.oxyy.co.uk	www.marshallward.co.uk	www.shopmagenta.com	www.oxyy.co.uk	www.hughesdirect.co.uk	www.247av.com
Details	www.samsung.co.uk	www.toshiba.co.uk	www.goodmans.co.uk	www.sony.co.uk	www.hannspree.com	www.lge.com	www.sharp.co.uk
Part Code	LE32R87BDX	32C3030	GTVL32W17HDF	KDL-32D3000	JT02-37E2-000G	LGPL 5-IPS	LC37RD2E